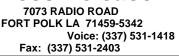


## JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER AND FORT POLK **PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**







June 11, 2003

Release Number: 060603 FOR MORE INFORMATION Contact: Ron Elliott 337-531-1418

## Joint Readiness Training Center hosts Kosovo MRE

FORT POLK, La. - Soldiers from the Pennsylvania National Guard's 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Mechanized) will be on Fort Polk to participate in a Kosovo Mission Rehearsal Exercise.

The exercise will train and certify the unit for deployment in an environment accurately replicating on-going operational and tactical situations found in Kosovo. Role players will act as residents of the "country" and provide a variety of challenges to the unit. Individuals the unit may encounter include civilians, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and allied forces.

The division is slated to deploy to Kosovo later this year, for six months, to replace active-duty Army personnel already in the region. Approximately 1,100 division soldiers from 25 units will become the command element for the U.S. sector in eastern Kosovo. National Guard units from some 20 other states will support the 28th ID.

Known as the Multinational Brigade East, the Pennsylvania National Guard will have combat forces and support forces serving along with several international units.

The Kosovo MRE is June 23-30, however troops will be in the area several days before and after the exercise.

## **Public Reminders:**

Motorists are reminded that soldiers will be in the area throughout the exercise and many days after. Do not go around barricades or travel in restricted areas.

Any noise complaints should be reported to the Noise Line by dialing (337) 531-1431. Callers are encouraged to leave their names and phone numbers so Fort Polk can address concerns and respond to individual complaints.